

Barak on service

Barak during the Labor leader's... Barak threw his full political support behind Meron's chief opponent...

Mordechai to Turkey

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai departs for Ankara... He is to meet today with Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur.

In Beirut on Friday, he offered to mediate in negotiations to swap the remains of IDF soldiers killed in south Lebanon for Lebanese prisoners in Israeli jails.

Hizbullah gunmen were joined by Amal militiamen and Lebanese soldiers in the fighting with the Israeli commandos.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said in September that the group was negotiating the exchange of Lebanese prisoners held by Israel for body parts from the commandos killed in the booby-trap raid.

Earlier on Friday, Possovalyuk met Nasrallah and the swap negotiations were high on the agenda, a source close to the talks said.

The daily *an-Nahar* on Friday reported that the negotiations had made some progress, saying that Israel has accepted the Hizbullah demand that it trade living prisoners for dead soldiers.

The Hebrew press focused on two major events over the weekend: the Histadrut general strike and last week's revelation that false intelligence information about Syria has been flowing into the defense and political systems.

"In the place where information-embellishment is exposed, it is obvious that severe sickness and perhaps decay exists," *Ha'aretz's* Ze'ev Schiff writes, warning that when this phenomenon continues for numerous years, it is an indication of faulty operation not only within a certain branch, but throughout the whole intelligence community.

In his article "Earthquake," Ya'acov Erez of *Ma'ariv* focuses on the impact of false information on the decision-making process of the politicians.

"This sort of information might have radicalized Israeli positions, caused the escalation of tension and might have brought on a military confrontation between Israel and Syria," he writes.

Yediot Aharonot's Ron Ben-Yishai writes that except for damaging the reputation of the intelligence community and hurting public morale, the affair has not caused any political or security damage to the state. All information is cross-checked and the decision-making process never relies on a single source, he explains.

However, "it had caused severe damage to mutual trust, vital to the working relations between the different branches of the intelligence community," he writes, adding that it will undoubtedly "sabotage the work of the Israeli intelligence community in giving us the protection that we need."

IDF officer lightly wounded in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

An IDF officer was very lightly wounded during fighting in the security zone last night. The officer, a captain, was with troops on operational duties in the zone's western sector when they came under mortar fire.

Hizbullah vows to retaliate for Friday's losses

Meanwhile, Hizbullah yesterday threatened to retaliate for the deaths of three Lebanese civilians in bomb explosions near Majdal Salim village, which is north of the security zone.

"The crime will not go unpunished. The resistance is determined to make the enemy pay a heavy price and make him weigh the consequences before carrying out similar attacks," Kaouk said.

According to the reports, a 55-year-old shepherd from Majdal Salim was killed in the first explosion. Two other residents were killed and a third badly wounded in a second blast when they went to the aid of the shepherd.

Russian deputy FM in Lebanon to discuss Hizbullah-IDF prisoner swap

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Possovalyuk returned to Jerusalem yesterday after visiting Syria and Lebanon.



Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Possovalyuk speaks to reporters after meeting with Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut on Friday.

He is to meet today with Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur.

In Beirut on Friday, he offered to mediate in negotiations to swap the remains of IDF soldiers killed in south Lebanon for Lebanese prisoners in Israeli jails.

"If we can help in this humanitarian matter, we are ready," he told reporters after meeting Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

A dozen IDF commandos were killed on September 5 when they were ambushed after landing on the Lebanese coast north of the security zone.

Houses in Majdal Salim village, which has been deserted by many of its inhabitants because of its proximity to the northern perimeter of the zone, have been used in the past as cover by Hizbullah mortar crews firing at IDF and SLA outposts.

Navy intercepts boat with Iraqi refugees

By AREN O'SULLIVAN and Nim

The Navy intercepted a suspicious vessel after it strayed into Israeli waters Friday, and discovered it was a small Lebanese craft laden with Iraqi and Kurdish refugees, the army said.

The vessel was intercepted about 40 km. off the Herzliya coast and taken to the naval port in Ashdod, where it was examined.

Apparently, the ship set sail for Crete five days beforehand from Tripoli, Lebanon. But the ship was caught in a storm and drifted lost off the Israeli coast.

The IDF also questioned the refugees about life in Iraq. "They were very scared," a soldier said. "They kept asking in terror, 'Are you sending us back to Iraq?'"

Several of the refugees asked to remain in Israel, but the vessel was sent on its way yesterday morning after it was repaired and loaded with fuel, water and provisions.

NEWS in brief

Matza, Neeman to discuss health budget

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza will meet with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to try again to bridge the gaps between them on the arrangements bill and dealing with the health system's NIS 1.3 billion budget deficit, it was learned last night.

Haredim block Rehov Bar-Ilan

A haredi youth was detained yesterday for stoning a police car, after some 150 haredim blocked Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan, police said.

Safed residents protest open cafe on Shabbat

Hundreds of observant Safed residents gathered outside a cafe in the town on Friday night to protest its remaining open with communal singing. The cafe owner then gathered a group of his friends who own motorcycles and they rode them back and forth near the protesters.

Northern towns: Don't remove our soldiers

The forum of confrontation line settlements in the North has called on Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to reverse his decision to stop using troops to guard settlements along the northern border.

Police arrest 35 in Jerusalem casino raids

A police raid of gambling operations in Jerusalem on Thursday night resulted in 35 suspects being detained overnight for questioning, and over 200 gambling machines being confiscated by police.

US travel writers arrive to plan conference

Representatives of SATW, the American travel writers association, arrived over the weekend. They are on a planning trip for the group's 1998 conference, which will take place here.

Ministry to probe teen's death after operation

Five transplants were performed over the weekend after 17-year-old Tarani Hatib, from Deir Hanna in the Galilee, died suddenly of cardiac arrest after a routine nasal operation in Haifa's Bnai Zion Hospital.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

The Hebrew press focused on two major events over the weekend: the Histadrut general strike and last week's revelation that false intelligence information about Syria has been flowing into the defense and political systems.

by local pundits for referring to striking workers as "exploding bombs" and enemies from within on Monday.

writes, "he is a thunderbolt, all noise and rings." He adds that nothing constructive has ever come out of Neeman's statements and suggestions.

"It only has been seven months, since he [Neeman] entered the political arena... and since then he has managed to quarrel with almost every sector of the population," *Ma'ariv's*

Shalom Yerushalmi writes, adding that "usually, he is immediately forgiven."

strategy and he is actually paving the road to becoming a national leader."

and Neeman, claiming Neeman was misunderstood. Neeman is not used to functioning in the political world of "lies and gimmicks," *Elitzur* writes.

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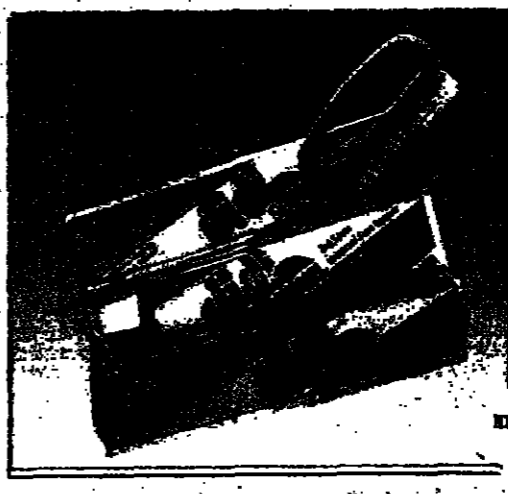
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Provocateur Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman was harshly criticized



Oops! Hong Kong's new leader Tung Chee-hwa tries to break his fall as he trips on the steps on a red-carpeted stage during a ceremony yesterday to kick off voter registration for the legislative election being held in May to replace the provisional body installed by China when it took over the territory from Britain in July. He was apparently unhurt by the fall. (AP)

Russian plane crashes into Siberian apartment complex

More than 100 feared dead on plane and in town of Irkutsk

By JOHN IAMS

MOSCOW (AP) - A huge Russian military cargo jet crashed into an apartment building in a Siberian town seconds after taking off yesterday, killing all 46 people aboard and as many as 100 on the ground, news reports said.

The An-124 aircraft set the house and nearby buildings ablaze. According to the Interfax news agency, up to 100 residents of the building were killed and another 100 were injured following the crash.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said 23 bodies had been recovered from the apartment house by 4 p.m. Moscow time yesterday.

It said the plane leveled the apartment house and damaged an orphanage, two wooden houses, and a school. Interfax, quoting unidentified local emergency services sources, said hundreds of children were evacuated from the crash area and 13 were hospitalized.

The mammoth aircraft was 10 seconds into its flight after taking off from an aircraft factory airport near Irkutsk when both left

engines failed at an altitude of about 70 meters, ITAR-Tass said, quoting sources close to the government investigation.

The plane was headed from Irkutsk, about 4,200 kilometers east of Moscow, for Vladivostok.

Lt.-Col. Nikolai Baranov, a Defense Ministry spokesman, said there were 16 crew members and 30 military personnel aboard the four-engine cargo jet, commonly known as the Ruslan, when it went down. The Ruslan is one of the world's largest aircraft.

The plane barreled down a main street of Irkutsk-2, an industrial area located near Irkutsk city, spewing wreckage and bursting into flames after completely demolishing the four-story apart-

ment building, a local official said.

Police and firemen were searching the debris for casualties, according to Yevgeny Kozlov, a local emergency service official speaking to Russian television news.

He said two other apartment houses, a school, and a shop were damaged by fire. He said 150 children and 10 adults had been evacuated from the orphanage, also damaged by fire.

Kozlov said the fires had been extinguished, and rescue workers were searching for casualties. "Now it's dark in Irkutsk, but the fire is out and rescue workers have begun the search for bodies," he said.

As many as 200 people were living in the apartment building, ITAR-Tass said.

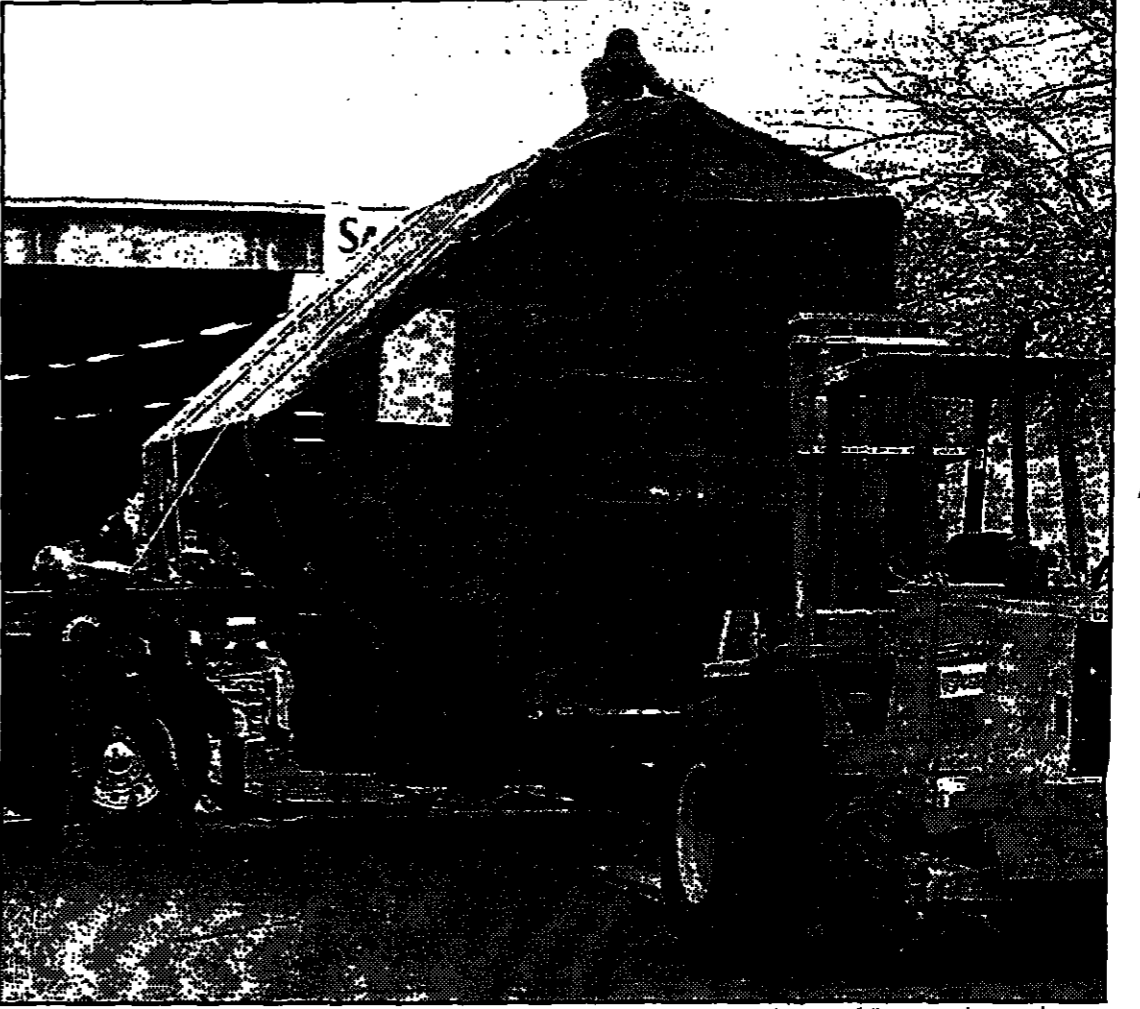
Kozlov said 12 people, including seven children, had been taken to a hospital in Irkutsk in critical condition with burns.

The cause of the engine failure crash was not immediately known.

Defense Minister Vladimir Topoyev and Air Force chief Pyotr Deinekin flew to the scene of the crash, the news agency said.

President Boris Yeltsin said he was shaken by news of the crash. He ordered Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to go to Irkutsk and head up the investigation into the accident, the president's press secretary said.

Alleged Unabomber's cabin arrives in Sacramento



Truck driver Bill Sprout (top) removes part of the tarp used to cover Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski's cabin after it arrived in Rancho Cordova, California, from Montana on Friday. (AP)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (Reuters) - The tiny plywood shack where Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski allegedly manufactured deadly mailbombs, but which his defense lawyers see as their prize exhibit, arrived from Montana on Friday.

The prosecution will begin the "guilt or innocence" phase of the trial with opening arguments on December 29.

Kaczynski lived for more than

20 years in the 3.6-meter by 3-meter cabin without electricity or running water and with only a small wood-burning stove to keep out the bitter cold of the Montana winters.

Federal prosecutors claim the cabin was, in essence, a bomb factory where Kaczynski made explosive devices and later mailed them to unsuspecting victims. But Kaczynski's defense team aims to show he is a men-

tally deranged man who did not realize the consequences of his actions.

The former college mathematics professor who turned his back on society to live the life of a hermit in Montana was charged in Sacramento with the murders of a forestry industry executive and a local computer store owner and the maiming of two college professors. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

350 killed in Sri Lanka battle

By SHRI NAVARATHNAM

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - More than 350 soldiers and rebels were killed and a similar number wounded Thursday in one of the fiercest battles since the military launched an offensive to capture a strategic highway, military and relief officials said Saturday.

According to the Sri Lanka Red Cross, the fighting lasted for more than nine hours and killed nearly 350 on both sides. First reports from the front reached Colombo only on Friday, and the death toll was raised Saturday.

A Sri Lankan Red Cross official said the death toll on the military side was over 250. He said around 105 rebels were killed in the attack.

The official was at the town of Vavuniya, about 40 kilometers south of the battle site in the jungles of Puttur. The region, about 200 kilometers north of the capital, is barred to reporters.

The Tamil Tiger rebels in a statement issued Friday claimed to have killed 300 government troops in the battle, and to have lost 35 of their own fighters. The rebels are fighting to carve out an ethnic homeland in the north, claiming Tamils are discriminated against in predominantly Sinhalese Sri Lanka.

The Defense Ministry said that 102 Tigers were killed in the battle, but gave no details of the attack. More than 300 combatants were wounded on both sides, military officials said. The fighting erupted early Thursday morning

when the military launched an attack in the jungles of Puttur, in an apparent bid to destroy a rebel camp. Tigers launched a ferocious counterattack using mortars and artillery guns, the Sri Lankan Red Cross official said. More than 2,000 rebels were involved in the attack, he said.

Government troops are trying to capture the last kilometers of a highway linking the southern mainland to Jaffna, the former rebel stronghold captured by government troops nearly two years ago.

More than 700 soldiers and 2,500 rebels have died since the highway campaign was launched in May, and several hundred more have been wounded, according to government figures.

The war, which erupted after anti-Tamil riots in 1983, has left more than 50,000 dead.

US scientists recreate sound of dinosaurs

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (Reuters) - US scientists said Friday that after two years of work they had recreated the call of the duck-billed Parasaurolophus dinosaur.

They said they had uncovered and simulated the extinct creature's deep, rumbling, whale-like or elephant-like groan using scans of a rare dinosaur fossil and powerful computers.

"It's kind of a sad sound and a little out of this world," said Dr. Tom Williamson, at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.

The two-year project to recreate the Parasaurolophus' sound began after a skull fossil of the 25-foot-tall, plant-eating dinosaur was discovered in New Mexico in 1995.

Dr. Carl Diegert of the Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque said the team of scientists wanted to understand the function of a bony, tubular crest extending from the back of the dinosaur's head. The crest, shaped like a trombone, contained a labyrinth of air cavities that Diegert believed made a distinctive sound.

By simulating the fossil structure on computer, the scientists came up with a unique sound which they say is the real thing. It can be heard on the following Internet sites: www.nmmnh-abc.mus.nm.us and www.sandia.gov.

The team has applied for a copyright for the sound. "There are some commercial interests," a spokesman for the New Mexico museum said.

Beijing executes two bank robbers

At least 4,367 executed last year in China

BEIJING (AP) - Two peasants who tried to rob a bank in a Beijing suburb have been put to death by firing squads, the Beijing Evening News reported yesterday.

Beijing's Higher Level People's Court approved the death sentences for Qi Guoqi and Zhang Baoliang on Friday, and the lower court immediately carried them out, the newspaper said.

Qi and Zhang, farmers from Daxing County on Beijing's northern edge, plotted the robbery in September.

The two stole two cars for use in the robbery and then on October

21 entered a county branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank, the newspaper said.

Zhang shot a security guard, who later died, and an alarm closed off the bank's counter, forcing the two to flee, the newspaper said.

Chinese leaders have pushed for increased use of the death penalty as part of a nationwide campaign started last year to combat crime.

China executed at least 4,367 people last year - six times the number of people put to death in the rest of the world, according to Amnesty International.

TWA employees charged in theft of crash debris

NEW YORK (Los Angeles Times) - Authorities on Friday charged two TWA employees and a policeman-turned-author in the theft of pieces of wreckage from TWA Flight 800 which were used to underpin a theory that a missile struck the jetliner.

According to a criminal complaint, TWA pilot Terrell Stacey stole scraps of seat fabric from the hangar where TWA Flight 800 was being reassembled and gave it to James Sanders, a former California policeman who wrote a book claiming a missile downed the plane.

Stacey also provided Sanders with confidential documents from the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation of the July 1996 crash that killed all 230 people aboard the Boeing 747 aircraft, court papers stated.

Prosecutors charged that Sanders took the fabric to a laboratory for analysis, and emphasized to lab personnel his desire that the tests show the presence of

solid rocket propellant.

When the tests provided no conclusive evidence of rocket fuel, Sanders misrepresented the results to the media, according to the court papers.

Sanders' wife Elizabeth, a TWA flight attendant, also was charged in the federal complaint filed in New York.

"These defendants are charged not only with committing a serious crime, they have also increased the pain already inflicted on the victims' families," said Assistant FBI Director James K. Kallstrom, who stressed, "the criminal investigation is far from over."

Sanders and his wife face 10 years in prison if convicted on charges of removing and concealing parts of a plane involved in an accident. Stacey, who has been cooperating with the FBI, faces a possible year in jail if found guilty on charges of stealing government property.

All the defendants are expected to surrender tomorrow, officials said.

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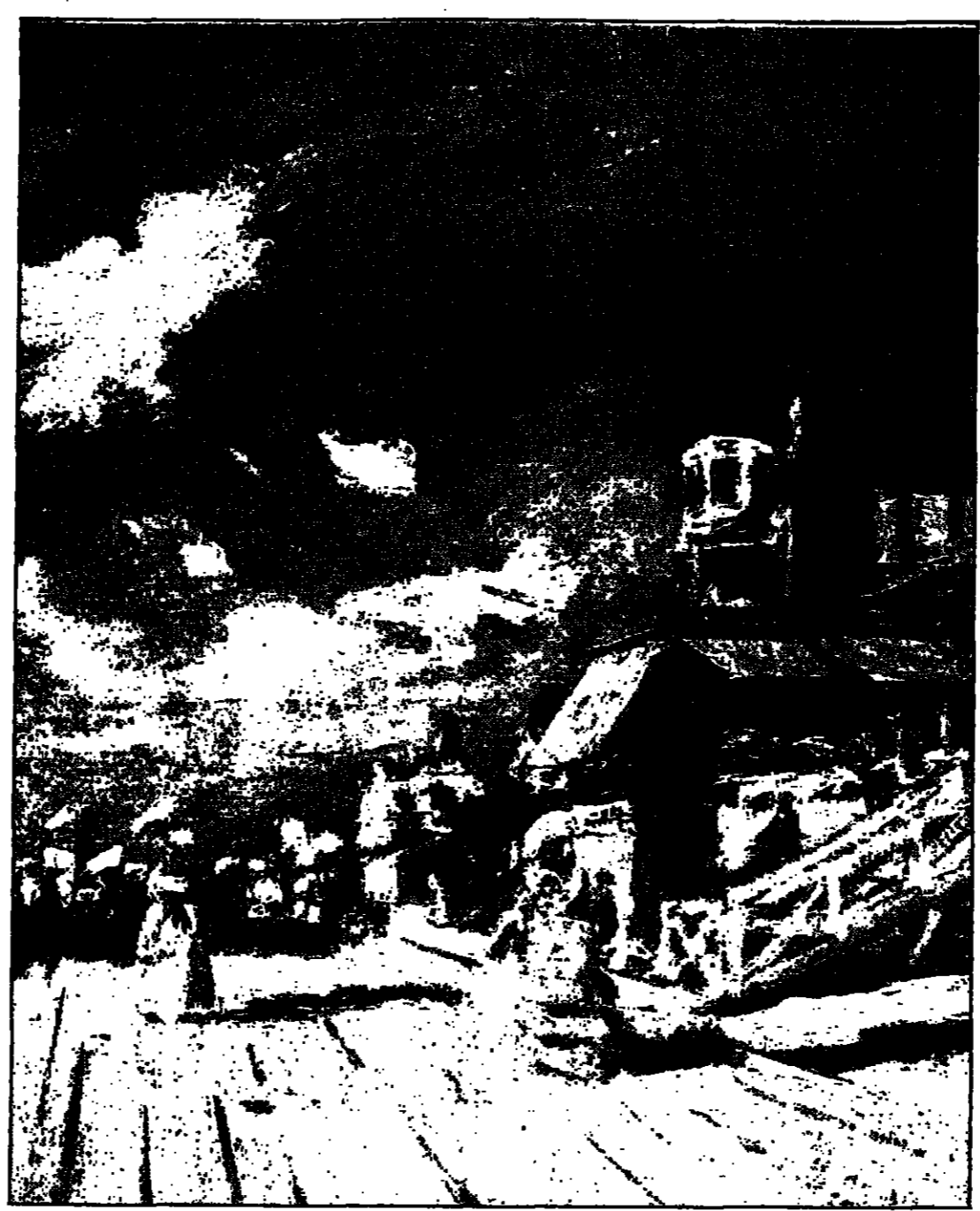
When the administration blamed Arab foot-dragging on the alleged intransigence of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, it dangerously confused this issue



Pablo Picasso: 'Man and Woman,' oils, 1968, to be sold by Sotheby's London tomorrow with an estimate of £1m.-£1.5m.

A Holocaust love story

Quite amazing stories and even tales of romance emerge from auctions of personal effects. A case in point is the archive of Edith Hahn, an Israeli who survived inside Hitler's Germany, offered by Sotheby's London at its sale of Continental Books and Manuscripts this weekend (with an estimate of £15,000-£20,000).



Claude Monet: detail of 'The Boardwalk of Trouville,' oils, 1870, to be sold at Christie's London December 9, with an estimate of £4m.-£5m.



Heinrich Campendonk: 'Composition with Horses,' oils, 1914, offered with an estimate of £400,000-£600,000 at Sotheby's London sale of German and Austrian Art tomorrow and Tuesday.

became Christine Denner, thanks to a young Aryan friend who risked her life by going to the police and telling them that she had lost all her papers in a boating accident. Armed with the spare set of papers, Hahn left for Munich, trained as a nurse and attended Nazi indoctrination sessions.

AT THE AUCTIONS

agreed but instead fled to London with her daughter. In 1957 she married another refugee from Vienna, Fred Beer. When he died in 1984, she moved to Israel.

new premises and its own auction rooms in a renovated historic building at 46 Rothschild Boulevard (tel. [03] 560-1666, from December 8), is looking for a variety of items to offer at its March sale.

on view at London's National Gallery. Despite its small size, I predict it will top its best estimate of £5m. (\$8m.)

A tough granny's memoir



If Paul Reiser can earn a \$5 million advance for writing about babies and Whoopi Goldberg's memoirs are worth \$6 million, should we begrudge Jessie Lee Brown Foveaux \$1 million for her life story?

'Any Given Day' won't threaten 'The Grapes of Wrath' as a classic of American literature. But author Jessie Lee Brown Foveaux has an attitude some of today's whining memoir writers could learn from, writes Jocelyn McClurg

and nothing's changed since Manhattan, New York, came calling with a big check. "I am not sorry that I don't have a lot of money to leave you. That makes too many problems," Jessie Lee writes in Any Given Day: The Life and Times of Jessie Lee Brown Foveaux (Warner Books, \$19.95), which has just been published.

children, and Jessie Lee becomes increasingly depressed, not caring whether she or her new babies live or die. "I wasn't a wife, I was a darned slave with no pay. I became so full of hate for that husband of mine, only God above kept me from killing him. I know I wanted to."



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Ethiopia: from basket case to bread basket

next three to five years, Ethiopia could become the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to experience a broad-ranging green revolution.

THE JERUSALEM POST ISRAEL is more than a few pages

UseNet: The ultimate bulletin board in cyberspace

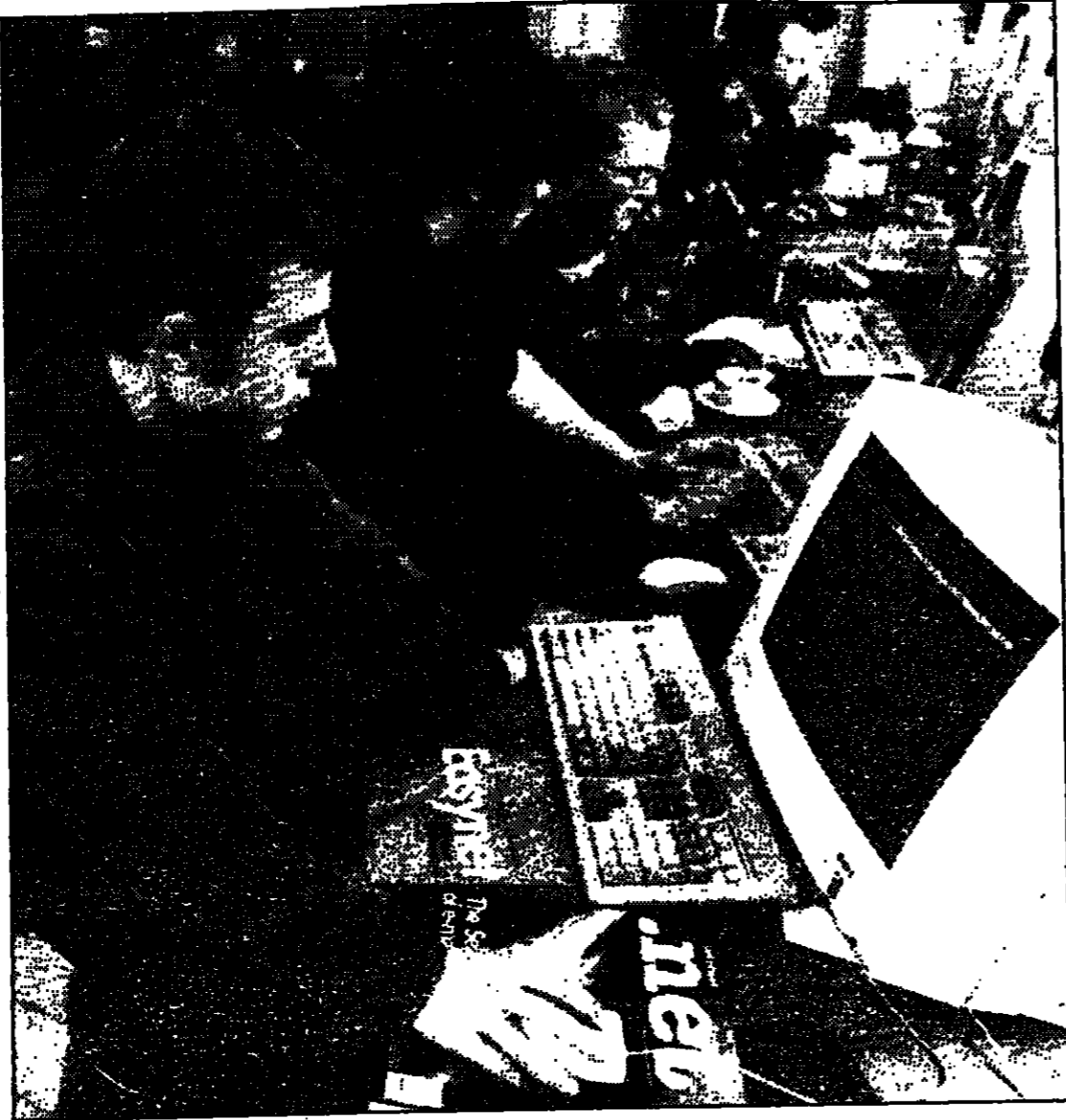
By LOU DOLINAR

Think of them as the electronic equivalent of the office water cooler or the coffee machine - a place to hang out and gossip with others. Only in this case, there are a few million people, all shouting at the same time.

Intimate, raucous and just plain weird, UseNet newsgroups, as they're called, are not for the kind of news that fills the daily papers. Rather, newsgroups represent a true "vox populi," a forum for the exchange of ideas on just about every topic imaginable. The good news about UseNet is that it allows you to broadcast your opinions to the millions of sophisticated computer users around the world. The bad news is that you have to listen to the rest of the world tell you why your opinions are ridiculous, naive and wrong.

Not too surprisingly, there's a fair amount of Internet lore devoted to explaining to newbies how not to look like idiots on UseNet. You can have this kind of dialogue on everything from computers to sex to sport. At last count, there were more than 20,000 such topics, or individual newsgroups. For a good sampling, take a look at <http://www.eskimo.com>, which has a plain-English description of many of these newsgroups; it's a big file, so don't be surprised if your browser chokes.

Newsgroups are organized in a hierarchy, with each main category starting out in one of 12 ways: alt (alternative newsgroups, including the sexually oriented ones), bit (mailing lists), biz (advertisements for businesses), clarinet (subscription-only news clippings), comp (computers, not surprisingly the biggest and most useful), k12 (educational, kindergarten through grade 12), misc. (miscellaneous), news (not newswires, but news about UseNet), rec (recreational, sports, hobbies, music games), sci (applied sciences), soc (social and cultural topics) and talk (discussion of controversial subjects). The indexing system is generally so



The problem with broadcasting your opinions to millions around the world is that you have to listen to everyone tell you your opinions are ridiculous.

screwy that it often makes more sense to use a search engine to look up subjects on UseNet that interest you. Note that you don't have to post stuff on UseNet to get a lot of use out of it. You can just read the groups that interest you (a process called lurking), or you can look up what other people have said. For example, if you're looking for information on trou-

bleshooting a particular brand of sound card, odds are that someone else has the same problem and has written about it in a discussion group. Deja News and Alta Vista let you wade through these millions of dialogues for the information that specifically interests you. The other reference function of UseNet is the FAQ, or Frequently Asked Questions, which represents the collective memory of the

particular group. Most newsgroups have one or more FAQs associated with them. The purpose of the FAQ is to let newcomers get up to speed without wasting everyone else's time asking the same old questions over and over. If you plan to participate (as opposed to just "lurk") in a newsgroup, you should find and review its various FAQs first. Even if you aren't participating, FAQs -

which can be book-length - have scads of useful information, particularly about computers. You can get a list of UseNet FAQs at <http://www.bookcase.com/library/faq/by-title.html>.

HOW DOES UseNet work? You can think of it as a bulletin board where you post messages and e-mails for others to read. Every Internet provider has a news server, which receives feeds from other news servers, automatically duplicating contents across thousands of servers on the Internet. On the receiving side, your service provider decides which of the thousands of groups to carry and which to filter out, such as the more grotesquely pornographic groups devoted to sex.

You decide which of those groups you wish to subscribe to. Just use your Web browser's news reader to look at the contents of the group you've selected. On the sending side, your news reader also lets you post messages to the group in reply to a specific message, which in turn is spawned across the entire Net. Messages that make up a series of replies to the same subject are called a thread, and your news reader can sort these to-and-fros into a coherent string.

There are two kinds of newsgroups: moderated and unmoderated. The unmoderated ones are a free-for-all. Anything that's sent into them is automatically passed on to all subscribers. You'll tend to have to wade through tons of nonsense on one of these to find anything interesting. Moderated groups, on the other hand, have one or more human beings in charge of filtering out irrelevant or erroneous posts, petty bickering, abusiveness and profanity.

Newsgroups are what I like to think of as the old Internet, the one that existed before the mega-corporations moved in and took over. As such, they reflect the graduate student, hard sciences and free information for the people. While some outfits like Deja News are making money off UseNet, there are still many dedicated volunteers who manage to keep things rolling. (Newsday)

TELL ME WHY

Deformed

By ADAM TANNER

When I was 10 years old, as my parents' station wagon pulled away from my first summer camp in southern Indiana, he wrote. "That satisfying thrill that something new is going to happen, and we don't know what it is yet." Even though earth is as close as a half-day journey by the Soyuz escape capsule, Wolf says home seems very far away. "Earth seems a bit dream-like these days. As we are connected only by crackling voices on the radio and the photographs

Watching for earthquakes from space



By Post Science Reporter

Five global positioning system (GPS) stations around Israel will use satellites to monitor movements of tectonic plates under the Jordan Rift and assess the risk of earthquakes in this high-risk region.

GPS was developed by the US Defense Department to provide three-dimensional images of what is happening under the earth's surface, via satellite.

The five stations will be built in the Golan, Galilee, the Gilboa region, in Mitze Ramon and in the western Negev, joining the existing 80 stations forming a GPS network around the world.

The three-year project for building GPS infrastructure for geophysical applications was launched by the geophysics and planetary sciences department of Tel Aviv University, San Diego's Scripps Oceanographic Institute, and the Israel Geological Institute, with funding from the Science Ministry's Israel Space Agency and the Israel Mapping Center.

The antennae will receive signals from 24 Defense Department satellites, which are 20,000 kilometers above earth. At any one time, signals from four of them can be monitored and "sampled" every 30 seconds, says Dr. Shimon Vadovinsky, the TAU geophysicist who is chief researcher of the local project. He adds that there are plans for Jordan to build GPS stations soon to monitor underground movements from the other side of the Jordan and Dead Sea.

Movement of tectonic plates deep below the surface of the earth causes energy to be released, and this can trigger earthquakes. The last major quake in the area, in November 1995, caused serious damage in Eilat. The data will have major implications on building standards, planning for Dead Sea hotel construction and property insurance rates, says Vadovinsky.

Eventually, the information will also be used for weather prediction in real time, since GPS signals are affected by the movement of moisture in the atmosphere.

'BEST' WEB HOOKUP
The two best Internet providers

in Israel are Internet Zahav (for business clients) and Actcom (for home users), according to *Obyektiv*, the Israeli consumer magazine.

The two were compared with NetVision, Infotek and Shani, the other major providers in the country. They were ranked according to price, percentage of disconnections, speed of data transmission and access to and quality of technical support. Smaller providers were not examined.

The magazine also advised Internet customers to choose a provider whose local phone number is not only in their area code, but also in their dialing area, of which there are 30 around the country. 16 of them in the (03) Tel Aviv region. If the provider is in a different dialing area, one will be charged more for Net connections. Ask a potential Internet provider for this information.

CIVIL SERVICE AT YOUR SERVICE

The Civil Service Commission has launched its own Internet site with a wide variety of information for state employees and the general public. The site, at <http://www.civil-service.gov.il>, lists in detail all public tenders for vacant state positions, gives information on the rights and responsibilities of government employees and provides a dictionary of concepts used in civil service matters.

The Web site will soon include the entire collection of civil service regulations (known in Hebrew as the *takshir*). During its running-in period, the site managers are asking for comments from users.

THE DEMOCRATIC NET

The Internet era will improve the political process in Israel, according to Science Minister Michael Eitan. Lecturing at the Oracle Technologies Week event in Tel Aviv recently, Eitan said that while preparing the last Likud Party convention he discovered that there were cases in which information was withheld about the number of delegates certain party branches were entitled to send.

"This would have been impossible if information technology were implemented listing on the Internet an updated list of all settlements and delegates. This technology would create a much stronger democracy," he said.

Information "should not be the property of the authorities, but of the citizenry - except for security information, matters of privacy and legal matters," Eitan said.

Life on Mir space station: Something to e-mail your friends back home about

By ADAM TANNER

Anyone who thinks life in space is glamorous should speak to David Wolf, a US astronaut on the orbiting Russian Mir space station, who has a load of chores that includes cleaning the toilet and scrubbing fluff from air filters.

Because the crews before his were so busy dealing with a fire, a crash and other mishaps, "it's now up to us to return this remarkable ship into top shape," he wrote to friends on Earth via e-mail. (Wolf's letters from space are published occasionally in *The Jerusalem Post*.)

"Unfortunately for me, that means things like organizing and cleaning - tasks my mother can attest to that I didn't always excel at back on earth," he wrote. "But she sure would be proud of me now. I spent most of today in the bathroom, organizing and cleaning it, not using it."

Wolf joined the 11-year-old space station in late September after a summer during which Mir collided with a cargo re-supply ship and then suffered a series of mechanical failures. The US space agency NASA delayed its decision on whether it was safe for Wolf to fly until just hours before his departure.

Since arriving, Wolf, a 41-year-old medical doctor and researcher, has taken part in experiments and repairs to the station, which Russia hopes to keep in orbit until early 1999. He has also written a series of e-mail letters home, distinctive for their sense of humor, boyish enthusiasm and self-deprecating style.

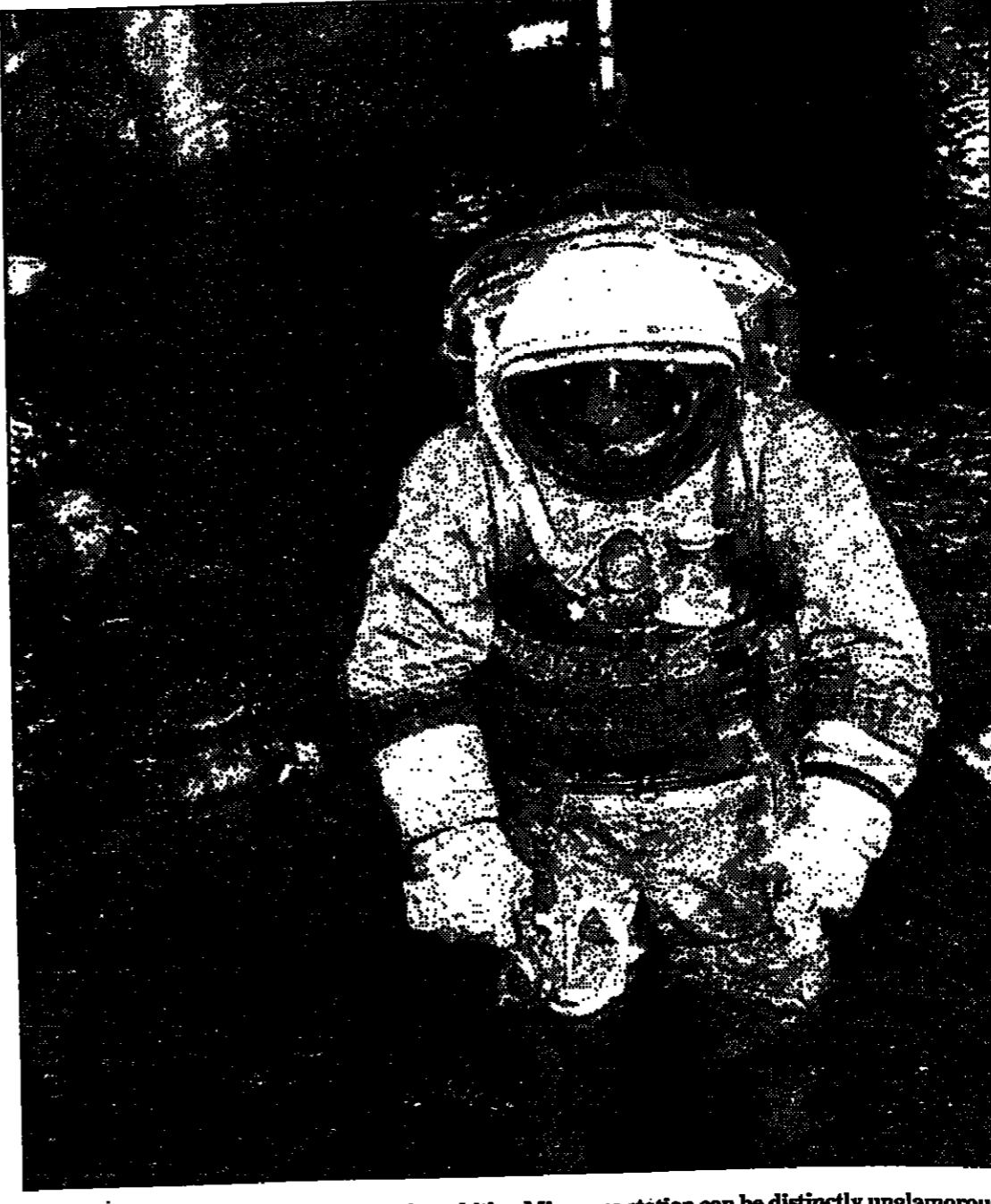
"Micro-gravity can be a very difficult, even frustrating, place to work, but it can also be fun, he wrote.

"The work days are long but there really isn't anywhere else much to go." In many of his letters, Wolf expresses admiration for Mir, warts and all.

"Its overall character brings forth the image of the 'time machine' from H.G. Wells's classic."

Inside, one finds many odd relics of missions past, he says. "Signatures and instruction placards written by the hands of over a decade of cosmonauts... Tables with things on both sides. A bicycle with no seat. A set of heavy tools held in place by rubber bands," he wrote.

He also marvels at Mir's life support systems, which recycle urine and sweat into air and water. "The water is really evaporatively purified urine, produced by the adjacent urine reclamation system. The toilet, of course, would then be directly across the aisle.



US astronaut David Wolf says life on the orbiting Mir space station can be distinctly unglamorous, with a load of chores that includes cleaning the toilet and scrubbing fluff from air filters. (Reuters)

all directions. This chore generally serves as a morning shower." Like the previous American astronaut on Mir, Wolf also lost his bedroom, in his case after a leak developed in the Kvant-2 hatch next to his cabin.

Wolf now says he sleeps near a crammed storage area of the Kristall module, where he found himself a bit disoriented after waking up on the ceiling one morning.

"Pushed a space shuttle-delivered water bag away from my face. Fumbled in the blackness of

the night side for that spot of Velcro holding my mini-maglite," he described. "Floated out of the marginally tethered sleeping bag and banged my head on the helmet of a ragged old spacesuit, long since cannibalized for parts."

Named NASA's inventor of the year in 1992, Wolf also describes feeling a wide array of emotions, including the moment when the US space shuttle undocked from Mir, leaving him behind for his four-month mission.

"I remember the place I last felt

brought along and our memories," he wrote. He also describes times of boredom, such as when his two Russian crewmates made a space walk while he waited in the Soyuz capsule.

"I opened up the package of macadamia nuts I brought with me and sat there locked tight for almost eight hours. I learned an invaluable lesson. Next time, I will bring a good book."

Another space lesson: life without gravity is not as easy as it looks.

"Apparently it takes longer than three weeks to get totally used to no gravity," he wrote in October. "I am still trying to figure out how not to become upside down when putting my pants on. Don't worry, though. I have plenty of time to figure it out."

Life in outer space can also appear dream-like and cinematic, Wolf explained as he related being left in charge during another space walk, when he thought of Captain Kirk, hero of *Star Trek*.

"I felt like the kid in *Home Alone* as I assumed Tolya's usual posture at the central command post, the cockpit. Or was it Kirk's position? Dream and reality run so close here."

(Reuters)

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. Visible text includes "Septuple about 1" and "Pass the ma".

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: "مكاتبنا" (Our office).

ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD

LAST CHANGE

AMEX table with columns for company name and last change.

NASDAQ

NASDAQ table listing various companies and their share prices.

NYSE

NYSE table listing companies and their share prices.

LONDON

LONDON table listing companies and their share prices.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

Large table listing various international and New York companies and their share prices.

Table listing various international companies and their share prices.

Table listing various international companies and their share prices.

Table listing various international companies and their share prices.

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Dow soars on jobs data

Wall Street

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks soared on Friday as a wave of traditional year-end buying brushed aside the inflationary impact of a report that the nation's jobless rate fell in November to the lowest level in nearly 25 years.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index set a new high. The Dow Jones industrial average ended up 98.97 points, or 1.2 percent, at 8,149.13. For the week, the average gained 326.00 points.

In the broader market, advancing issues beat declines 1,714 to 1,163 on active volume of 556 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The S&P index rose 10.69 points to a record 983.79, surpassing the old high of 983.11 set on October 17.

The government said that the unemployment rate fell to a 24-year low of 4.6% in November from 4.7% in October as the economy cranked out jobs.

Analysts said traders appeared to be buying in anticipation that stocks will rally as they typically do in late December and early January.

Meanwhile, continued strong economic data has helped soothe concerns that US corporate earnings will soon be slowing, Smith said.

The market was helped by strong gains in the technology sector after its pummeling earlier this week.

Cisco Systems Inc. gained three to eight-3/8, Dell Computer Corp. added 2-5/16 to 93-3/4, International Business Machines Corp. rose three to 112-1/4 and Hewlett-Packard Co. added 4-1/2 to 67-3/4.

Eastman Kodak Co. fell 5/8 to 129.37 at Thursday's close. It hit a six-week high against the mark, closing at 1,782.00, from 1,770.5.

Some fund managers reportedly took profits, selling large quantities of dollars and sparking more rumors of Japanese intervention.

The rise put the dollar in New York above 130 yen for the first time since May 1992. Japanese Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka overnight briefly interrupted the rally, saying in a Tokyo news conference that Japan was prepared to deal with excessive yen weakness in a "timely and appropriate way."

Unconfirmed reports that Japan quietly used money from its vast foreign exchange reserves to make dollars available to Japanese banks also briefly checked the advance. Many troubled Japanese banks are having difficulty borrowing dollars cheaply in international money markets.

But more investors flocked to the US after the Labor Department said payrolls surged 404,000 in November - nearly twice the expected rise - pushing the jobless rate down to 4.6 percent, its lowest in more than 24 years.

Healthy October factory orders data also showed the US economy was likely to end the year in excellent shape, so far riding out the financial storms that have recently battered Japan and other economies in southeast Asia.

"The dollar has been doing very well and stocks are up," said Doug Lee, an assistant vice president at Sakura Bank Ltd. "This is the only economy that's really growing at any kind of convincing rate, relative to overseas economies."

The dollar got support from the Dow Jones industrial average, which rose 98.97 points, or 1.2%, to 8,149.13. The dollar rose to 130.20 yen



Dow Jones 8149.13 ▲ 1.2%

FTSE 5142.9 ▲ 1.1%

Nikkei 16424.48 ▲ 0.7%

58-7/8 after a World Trade Organization panel came down on Japan's side against the US in a dispute involving Kodak and Fuji Photo Film Co.

Hambrecht & Quist Group Inc. fell 1-1/2 to 43-1/2 as sources close to the situation said the investment bank was in takeover talks with Merrill Lynch & Co., which finished up 1/16 at 76-1/4.

Europe

LONDON (Reuters) - The UK's leading share index was catapulted to a six-week closing high on Friday, after Wall Street muscled its way higher in the face of robust US employment data.

The FTSE 100 closed at 5142.9, up 60.6 points, or 1.19 percent, up 311.1 from last week. German shares recaptured ground lost to stronger-than-expected US jobs data to clock up safe gains and finish firmer.

The Hang Seng index closed at 11527.60, up 52.66 points, or 0.46%, up 1000.68 from last week.

Dollar breaks 130 - yen barrier

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The dollar jumped after a surprisingly strong US employment report Friday, hitting a new 5-1/2-year high against the yen and overcoming warnings that Japan may act to curb further weakness in its currency.

The rise put the dollar in New York above 130 yen for the first time since May 1992. Japanese Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka overnight briefly interrupted the rally, saying in a Tokyo news conference that Japan was prepared to deal with excessive yen weakness in a "timely and appropriate way."

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (7.11.97)

Table showing foreign currency deposit rates for various banks and currencies.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (2.12.97)

Table showing shekel foreign exchange rates for various currencies.

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Additional information on money markets.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Additional information on money markets.

Large advertisement for 'SPE' (Specialized Professional Equipment) featuring a car and various services.

McMillan leads Kiwis past S. Africa

ADELAIDE (AP) — New Zealand batsman Craig McMillan scored 86 to lead his side to a 47-run victory in the limited overs international against South Africa at the Adelaide Oval yesterday. In his fifth one-day international, McMillan made his second half-century and highest score, his previous best being 66 against Zimbabwe. He added 124 for the sixth wicket with Chris Harris after they came together at 93 for five in the 23rd over. New Zealand reached 224 for six in its 50 overs in the first day-night game played in Adelaide. South Africa struggled against a tight bowling performance from New Zealand and was dismissed for 177 in 47.5 overs. Harris scored an unbeaten 52 and nearly all his came in ones and twos as he explored the gaps. His only boundary was a bottom edge which beat wicketkeeper Dave Richardson. McMillan survived a torrid welcome from South African paceman Allan Donald, who restricted the batsman to just two singles from the first 21 balls he faced. New Zealand made a disastrous start to the innings after being put in by Hansie Cronje but were steadied early by Chris Cairns, who scored 55. Donald finished with 2-17 from 10 overs while Pollock took 3-36. South Africa started its run chase with a rush, scoring freely off Shayne O'Connor in the opening overs, but also losing two wickets to him.

Caps win in new home

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Capitals christened their new arena with a victory Friday night as newly acquired Jeff Tomis scored at 3:32 of overtime to pace a 3-2 triumph over the Florida Panthers. Tomis, acquired two weeks ago from Tampa Bay off the waiver wire, scored on a 2-on-1 break to give the Capitals a triumph in the first NHL game at the \$200 million MCI Center. Sabres 4, Lightning 0 Dominik Hasek made 38 saves for his second straight shutout, and Buffalo got goals from three defensemen to win at home. Flyers 4, Rangers 4 Brian Leetch scored a pair of power-play goals to cap a three-goal comeback by host New York and salvage a tie. John LeClair had scored his 21st and 22nd goals to help the Flyers take a 4-1 lead in the second period. But the Rangers came back on a goal by Brian Skrudland and the two by Leetch, who capped the rally at 3:07 of the third period with a slap shot from the right circle past Garth Snow. Hurricanes 2, Coyotes 2 Cliff Ronning's second goal in his last 20 games midway through the second period gave injury-plagued Phoenix a tie with the hosts. Stars 4, Flames 1 Ed Belfour stopped 20 shots and Patrick Roy had a goal and an assist as host Dallas came within a seventh straight. Oilers 3, Red Wings 1 Goaltender Bob Essensa earned



WORK STOPPAGE — New Jersey Nets' David Benoit blocks a shot by 76ers' Jim Jackson in first quarter action on Friday.

Van Horn debuts in Nets' win

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — Keith Van Horn made his long-awaited NBA debut and had 11 points in 27 foul-plagued minutes as the New Jersey Nets beat the Philadelphia 76ers 107-88 on Friday, for their most lopsided win of the season. The second overall pick in the NBA Draft, Van Horn sprained his right ankle during the exhibition season and missed the first 17 regular-season games. He had six points and an assist in an early 26-4 run. Bulls 84, Bucks 62 Toni Kukoc had 19 points and the Bulls held Milwaukee to its lowest scoring output in its 30 years in the NBA. Heat 117, Celtics 97 Mark Strickland had a career-high 20 points and Jamal Mashburn and Tim Hardaway scored 18 points each for the host Heat. Sonics 94, Pistons 89 Vin Baker had 31 points and Gary

Sprewell's agent blasts NBA

NEW YORK (AP) — The agent for suspended All-Star guard Latrell Sprewell accused the NBA of influencing the Golden State Warriors' decision to terminate his client's contract. Asked if he thought the league had been behind the turn of events, agent Am Tellem said: "My guess is yes, they did, because the Warriors changed their position so abruptly. It was strictly an internal matter and it wasn't a league issue," Tellem said. "When the Warriors made their initial reaction of a 10-game suspension and \$1 million in lost salary, we were prepared to live with it and accept it. Then, all of a sudden, everything changed abruptly." Sprewell received the longest suspension in NBA history Thursday when the league banned him from any calendar year for attacking coach P.J. Carlesimo during practice Monday. The players' association filed formal grievances against the NBA.

Betar go top thanks to Hap. Beersheba

By DEREK FATTAL and AMMANIAH de VRIES title received a blow with a 3-1 defeat away to Maccabi Herzliya. The game was rather rough, with the referee flashing seven yellow cards and dismissing Petah Tikva's Eli Abarsanel for knocking over Ronen Fiegenbaum. For Herzliya the goal scorers were Vassili Ivanov three minutes into the second half, Oleg Nauda in the 54th minute and Tzachi Zanetti five minutes to time. Substitute Yaniv Ofri put one away for Petah Tikva in the 73rd minute. Maccabi Tel Aviv came away with three points from their visit to fellow relegation-strugglers Hapoel Beit She'an. Eli Driks pounced on an Avi Nimni cross to score in the 40th minute, while Beit She'an blew any chance of recovery by having two players dismissed in the second half. Hapoel Ashkelon's 1-0 home defeat on Friday against Hapoel Kfar Sava could cost coach Menashe Nuriel his job. Hapoel Jerusalem got back into winning ways the same day, marking the long-awaited return of Michal Dayan with a 2-1 win over Ironi Rishon LeZion. Maccabi Petah Tikva and Ironi Ashdod conspired to provide a sleep-inducing 0-0 draw from their meeting.

Table with columns for Eastern Conference, Western Conference, National League, and Second Division. Rows list various teams and their statistics (W, L, Pct., GB).

A massive crowd was also present for the Haifa derby at Kiryat Eliezer. Hapoel Haifa's 4-2 victory over Maccabi proved once-and-for-all that Maccabi's days as the city's premier club are over. Shai Holtzman's moment of glory for Betar came in the 35th minute from a long throw in from the left touchline into the area by Tomer Azulai. Holtzman collected the ball cleanly with his back towards the goal and his marker, then neatly spun round and buried the ball into the Be'er Yehuda net for the all-important winner. The Hatikva Quarter side played well above their league placing but were unable to equalize. At the other end Shavit Elimelech also had his hands full, as Beersheba's Yossi Benayoun — the outstanding player on the field — led the southerners' attacking forays. A dramatic Haifa derby saw Maccabi's green and whites truly humbled in a 4-2 defeat inflicted by their Hapoel rivals. Hapoel's first three goals came in the opening half. Giovanni Rosso put the first one past Nif Davidovich from the penalty spot in the sixth minute. Hapoel Petah Tikva's bid for the

CLASSIFIEDS

Advertisement for classifieds featuring various categories: RATES, DWELLINGS (Jerusalem Area), BUSINESS OFFERS (Jerusalem), SITUATIONS VACANT (Tel Aviv), VEHICLES (General), and VEHICLES (Jerusalem). Each category includes detailed listings with contact information.

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Winnie Mandela stirs emotions among Soweto neighbors

By LYNNIE DUKE

SOWETO - For \$10, visitors can buy a tiny, corked jar of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's dirt. It is not a list of the allegations she faced during just-finished hearings into abuses committed during the apartheid era. It is soil from the ground on which the Mandela family built its home in the Orlando West section of this southern Johannesburg community.

It is here, at the Winnie Mandela and Family Museum, that the image of the erstwhile "Mother of the Nation" is preserved: Winnie, the international honoree; Winnie, the freedom fighter in fatigues; Winnie, the first-lady-in-waiting, pining for release of the world's most famous political prisoner, her then-husband Nelson Mandela.

Once, her face was like a mirror in which black South Africans could see their hopes and aspirations. But in the communities surrounding the museum, the Winnie image has shattered into sharp-edged shards that now are weapons in a national debate over her legacy, her integrity, her status as a leader, her future.

This debate had seethed for several years. But now, after nine days of public allegations against her before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there is no shortage of loud venting about this woman who stirs emotions here like no other.

"That thing was in the past," says Gift Mbatia, owner of a

vegetable stand a few streets away from the Mandela family museum.

"We must forgive her."

"She was supposed to be arrested, not taken" to the truth commission, said Benji Nhlapo, a friend of Mbatia's. "No, I'll never be on that lady's side, because I know what she did."

Nhlapo said he recalls vividly how Madikizela-Mandela's bodyguards made the already miserable life of racial separation more difficult for those around them.

Her bodyguard squad, known euphemistically as the Mandela United Football Club, unleashed a reign of terror in her name, targeting comrades in the fight against apartheid, the system of white-minority rule, and branding them "sellouts."

So complex are the emotions that Madikizela-Mandela stirs that Maurice Mbele, a hairdresser in her neighborhood, defended her by saying,

"Whatever she did, she had a reason." But, he also said that "she didn't tell the truth" to the truth commission.

"I can still vote for her," said a customer of Mbele's, Ditshele Magose, in Padawee's Hair salon. "I don't have a problem. She can still rule."

"She won't. She won't," said Ana Pike, another hairdresser, saying that the troubles in Madikizela-Mandela's past are so serious that they caused the Mandelas' divorce last year. Now, Madikizela-Mandela is seeking high office in the ruling

African National Congress in voting to take place next month. The party's establishment,

including her former husband, have been campaigning aggressively to thwart her bid.

"You must consider why the president left her because he wouldn't be president if Winnie



Winnie Madikizela-Mandela (right) embraces Joyce Seipel, the mother of murdered teenage activist Stompel Seipel, at a hearing Thursday of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. (AP)

When Botha failed to appear Friday for a hearing to which he had been subpoenaed, truth commission officials went to an attorney general's office to charge him with contempt of court. It turned out, however, that the subpoena was technically deficient - it did not specify a time for Botha's appearance - and therefore not binding.

A new subpoena was issued for Botha to appear December 19. Anglican Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, the truth commission chairman, repeatedly has warned that Botha will be charged if he flouts the law.

"There is no justice in South Africa," said an elderly woman who lives in Madikizela-Mandela's neighborhood and said she fears retaliation should her name appear in print. She said that a nearby squatter settlement houses people who "idolize" Madikizela-Mandela and that they would do her bidding.

The elderly woman said she grieves for Joyce Seipel, whose 14-year-old son, Moketsi "Stompel" Seipel, was beaten and stabbed to death by Madikizela-Mandela's security force over several days in 1988 and 1989. Madikizela-Mandela was convicted for the boy's kidnapping in 1991.

During the truth commission hearings, Joyce Seipel said she wanted Madikizela-Mandela prosecuted for murder. But as the hearings drew to a close, Seipel walked up to Madikizela-Mandela, extended her hand and kissed her on the cheek.

(The Washington Post)

Laos starts looking to attract foreigners

By DAVID LAMB

VIENTIANE, Laos - Here on the banks of the Mekong River, Southeast Asia's economic boom had bypassed Laos. It is as though Laos fell off the world map and Vientiane - small, dusty, sleepy - was time-trapped in the pages of a Graham Greene novel.

While canyons of glass-fronted high-rises tower over other Asian capitals, Vientiane remains a collection of rutted streets and two-story shops, the capital of a country where only one-tenth of the villages are anywhere near a road and only one-quarter of the population has access to safe drinking water.

"Quiet? Yes, it's that," said writer James Michener, a six-year Vientiane resident and nephew of the late author with the same name.

"But if you've got your computer, your books, it's a great place: charming, relaxed, like the unspoiled Asia of old."

For a good many years, Laos' aging Communist leaders - the Pathet Lao guerrillas who came out of mountain caves in 1975 to mismanage the country into bankruptcy - were content to keep the nation exactly that. It devised policies to ensure the country's isolation behind a bamboo curtain and shunned paths toward prosperity that Singapore, Malaysia and others had followed.

But the temptation eventually proved too great, and today big changes are in the wind. As US Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin, who speaks Lao and taught here from 1971 to 1973 for International Volunteer Service, put it: "They took a look around the neighborhood and saw that foreign investment - export-led growth - created the economic boom, and they want to be part of it."

The Communists have set a modest goal: to escape from the ranks of the world's 25 poorest countries by 2020. Under the "new economic mechanism" reforms, first toyed with in 1986, they have lifted trade barriers, instituted free-market prices, given farmers the right to own land, liberalized the investment code. Vientiane, if not exactly abuzz, has reacted with a flourish of activity: new shops, more motor scooters, a new airport terminal under construction.

"We are a poor country trying very hard to be rich in the years ahead," said Linthong Phetsavan, acting general director of the Foreign Ministry's media department. The road, he admits, will be a long one.

Three-quarters of Laos' public-expenditure budget comes from foreign aid. Its resources - oil, gold, precious metals - are only in the early stages of exploitation. Its plan to build dams and power plants to export hydropower to Thailand has been set back by a Thai economic crisis. Its land remains cluttered with unexploded US ordnance from the Vietnam War that makes development dangerous, expensive and sometimes untenable. And much of its middle class has never returned home after fleeing the Pathet Lao's harsh rule in the mid-1970s.

"While the rest of Asia was devel-

oping, Laos was left standing around, wondering what time of the day it was," said one Western businessman. "Can they ever catch up? I'm not sure. Unlike the Vietnamese, the Laotians are a pretty laid-back people - polite, friendly but not terribly industrious."

"What Laos has going for it is that it's in vogue with donor nations. The remoteness, the mystique of Southeast Asia, the embrace of a free-market economy - they all give Laos a certain appeal. You've got donors falling all over each other to fund the same project," he said.

"To be sure, Laos is a tough hand to begin with. A landlocked nation battered by war, it had been colonized, occupied and manipulated by foreign powers since the 19th century.

Today, as poor as Bangladesh in per capita income, it is a country the rest of Southeast Asia continues to dismiss as a backwater stepchild.

Writing in Bangkok's English-language *Nation* newspaper, a Thai columnist recently told how people were fleeing his country's economic downturn. "One friend wants to go to New York," he wrote. "Someone has already gone to London, another to Hong Kong. I even know someone who has moved to Laos. He was that desperate."

Whereas Laos once eschewed anything tainted by the West, the country's real seat of power, the Communist Politburo, now eagerly seeks close political and economic relations with those nations. Laos is the only Indochinese country that did not experience a break in diplomatic relations with Washington in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.

US diplomats term relations with Vientiane as "good and improving." They say the government has been cooperative in assisting in the search for the remains of US airmen shot down over Laos and in seeking crop substitutions that will wean farmers off the opium they grow. Laos is the world's third-largest opium producer.

Over many generations, Laotians became used to being kicked around. The Thais invaded Vientiane in the 1820s and left only a temple standing. France colonized the country in the 1890s; Japan controlled it in World War II; CIA agents manipulated it in the 1960s.

The Pathet Lao came to power promising retention of the monarchy, guarantees of individual freedom, a neutral foreign policy and a role for the private economic sector. Upward of 40,000 Laotians were sent off to re-education camps.

Today the hammer and sickle and the Communist jargon are gone, along with the bamboo curtain. A two-lane bridge, built by Australia, spans the Mekong near Vientiane and provides the first river-spanning link to Thailand. And Laos took an important further step to end its isolation earlier this year by joining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

(Los Angeles Times)

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Address: _____

City: _____ Code: _____ Tel. (day): _____

ID No. _____ Signature: _____

Please list gift recipients' names and addresses separately.

The Sunday Comics could not be run today due to technical difficulties stemming from the general strike.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

neighborhood... Friday for a hearing... had been subpoenaed...

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
Young, dramatic and inspiring British maestro Antonio Pappano leads the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert performance of Verdi's Shakespearean masterpiece Otello tonight...

ETHNIC

HELEN KAYE
'Andalusian' is the generic name for traditional North African music. It's also the specialty of Ashdod's Israel Andalusian Orchestra...

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN
If you're a fan of British novels made into slow, sensitive dramas, you will be delighted to learn that Channel 1 is airing a three-part BBC series based on Anne Brontë's novel The Tenant of Wildfell Hall tonight at 10:35.



Channel 1 airs the first part of the BBC adaptation of Anne Brontë's 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' at 10:35 p.m.

story of desperate marriage and passion shocked Victorian England when it was first published 150 years ago. A woman escapes with her young son from her debauched husband to a small village, where she is viewed with suspicion and arouses gossip...

TV

- CHANNEL 1: 8:30 News Flash, 8:31 News in Arabic, 8:45 Good Morning Israel... EDUCATIONAL TV: 8:00 Globe Watch, 8:30 Destino, 9:00 Science... MIDDLE EAST TV: 11:00 Changed Lives, 11:30 Animals of the Middle East...

ARABIC PROGRAMS

- HEBREW PROGRAMS: 18:30 News, 19:30 News Flash, 19:31 Home, 19:32 World Soccer... CHANNEL 2: 6:15 Today's programs, 8:30 Spikeman...

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 4 columns (1, 2, 3, 4) and 4 rows (1, 2, 3, 4) listing TV programs like News, Beverly Hills 90210, Trivia King, etc.

Weather forecast for various cities including Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and international locations like London, Paris, and New York.

Winning Cards: In yesterday's Migal Hapays daily chance drawing. Includes a grid of numbers and symbols.

Home Delivery of THE JERUSALEM POST. Please direct all inquiries to Tel.: 177-022-2278.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a grid for the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS for the cryptic crossword puzzle. Lists answers for each clue.

QUICK CROSSWORD. Includes a grid and clues for Across and Down words.

MOVIES

- JERUSALEM CINEMAS: Sting Blade 5, Roma 7:30, Il Tetto 9:30... CINEMA: 6:37/3178 The Game, 6:54/0182 G.L. Jane-Murder at 1600 5, 7:30, 10... HADERA: 6:54/3555 G.L. Jane 10 - Fever Pitch-Allen Resurrection-Murder at 1600 7:30, 10...

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